

## Coil Pot or Sculpture Project

**Purpose:** To learn the basic skills of building with coils of clay and controlling form.

### Construction Goals Checklist:




1. \_\_\_ **Pot/sculpture matches design template made beforehand** that is used to help building
2. \_\_\_ Pot stands at least 8.5 inches (22cm) tall, walls are less than 3/8" (10mm) thick
3. \_\_\_ Pot is symmetrical and well-proportioned (sculptures may be asymmetrical); profile has 3+ curves
4. \_\_\_ Pot has a refined rim and at least two handles or decorative additions that are more than simple coils

### Directions:

- **Work on a banding wheel.** Start with a bottom made from a rolled-out sheet of clay, a pinched-out bowl form, or a coil ring or rings.
- **Use a small board to move and store your pot on (not a banding wheel).**
- **Do one layer of coils at a time** – this helps you control the form. Overlap the coil ends and cut them both at once at an angle, then join them.
  - Soft clay may be smeared or married together by smushing the fatty curve of the coil down into the joint between it and the coil below.
  - Less soft and leather-hard clay must be slipped and scored together.
- **Stretch or compress walls to the desired thickness as you go** – do not carve thin later.
- **Use your template** to make sure your pot's profile is even and as you want it. If the coil you just put on does not work, remove it and try again.
- **Make sure every layer is good before moving on to the next layer**, or you'll be srrrrrrrrrrry.
- **If the clay is soft**, be sure that it doesn't start to sag under its own weight. You may need to let the pot firm up some, especially when the wall of your pot is going more out or in than up.
- **Make the rim even and level.** Finish it off with a larger coil that you can sculpt into a strong visual element – this will also make the pot more able to withstand firing and use.
- **Attach the handles well** when the pot is still moist – no drier than leather hard. Do not let them dry faster than the pot – you may want to wrap them in plastic while decorating the pot.
- **Let the pot dry slowly while wrapped up** – this will help prevent the handles from cracking off.

### A Few Types Of Ancient Greek Pottery

(Illustrations from: <http://www.beazley.ox.ac.uk/tools/pottery/shapes/default.htm>)

	<p><b>Hydria</b> – Used for carrying water. The hydria has three handles: two horizontal ones on either side of the pot's body were used for lifting and carrying the pot. The third handle, a vertical one, located in the center of the other two handles, was used when pouring water. Hydria can be found in both the red and black figure pottery styles. They often depicted scenes of Greek mythology, that reflected moral and social obligations.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;"> <span>Column</span>      <span>Volute</span>      <span>Calyx</span>      <span>Bell</span> </p>	<p><b>Kraters</b> – Used to mix wine and water. They were quite large, so they were not easily portable when filled. The wine-water mixture would be withdrawn from the krater with other vessels.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;"> <span>Type B</span>      <span>Type A</span>      <span>Type C</span>      <span>Panathenaic</span> </p>	<p><b>Amphorae</b> – A type of vase with two handles and a long neck narrower than the body. Used by the ancient Greeks and Romans as the principal means for transporting and storing grapes, olive oil, wine, oil, olives, grain, fish, and other commodities.</p>